

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN KIDS AGE OUT without a family

When kids leave state care without a permanent, stable family they are forced to face the world untethered and alone. Almost all of them (9 out of 10) will experience one of these challenges within the first two years.

HOMELESS

Upon discharge from care, nearly 25% of youth will immediately become homeless. More than 50% of the nation's homeless spent more than one year in foster care.

TRAFFICKED

Approximately 70% of foster youth will become victims of trafficking. At the time of recovery, more than 80% of victims stated they were in the care of the state when they were first victimized.

PREGNANT

Nearly 70% of all girls who exit foster care without a family will become single teenage mothers. Most of these mothers will rely on state assistance to care for their children. Many of the children become wards of the state.

IN JAIL

Almost all male prisoners spent time in foster care. One of the primary data points used when building new prisons is how many males age out of foster care without a permanent, stable family.

ADDICTED

Fifty percent (50%) of foster youth who age out of the system will develop a long-term substance abuse problem, leading many of them back into a cycle of homelessness, joblessness, jail, or worse.

UNEMPLOYED

By age 24, half of the youth who aged out remain unemployed. Aged-out foster youth's earning potential is 50% less than low income earners and nearly 70% less than the national average of their peers.

DEAD

Children and youth who experience foster care are 40% more likely to die before age 24 than children and youth in the general population. Many missing and exploited foster youth go unreported because no family is waiting for them to come home.

